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**Impact of Outpatient Pain Management Program on Patient Factors & Provider Behavior**

**[Through the examination of consecutive surveys we intend to better understand the effects of a pain management program on the behavior of healthcare providers, patient-reported pain outcomes and quality of life, and emotional factors that may influence the impact of a pain management program]**

Cancer pain is a significant public health problem that affects the lives of a large percentage of people receiving health care at ambulatory settings in New Jersey. Under pressure to improve pain management and to comply with statewide standards, many New Jersey healthcare organizations were compelled to put into service mandatory pain initiatives without program evaluations to guide their efforts. Outpatient cancer patients experience unique barriers to pain management. Therefore, the unique pain management needs of New Jersey's outpatient oncology patients make them particularly vulnerable to the implementation of pain management programs in the absence of population-specific efficacy data. Thus these patients have the potential to benefit tremendously from the development and evaluation of a pain management program specific to the needs of outpatient oncology patients.

In the most recent year for which information is available, 43,303 new cases of cancer were diagnosed among New Jersey residents. That same year, nearly 18,000 NJ residents died from cancer. At least half of all cancer patients, and up to 80% of patients with recurrent or advanced disease, experience significant pain. Among those who experience pain, 42% have pain that is not adequately controlled. For cancer patients who are facing the end of life, adequate pain management is their most important concern. Unrelieved pain results in physical and psychological suffering, slowed recovery from surgery and illness, decreased physical functioning, and increased disability. Given the prevalence of cancer-related pain in NJ, and the scope of its deleterious impact, the development and implementation of programs that improve the management of cancer-related pain in New Jersey could be expected to greatly improve the health, quality of life, and productivity of the citizens of New Jersey. Even with remarkable efforts to improve pain management in New Jersey, barriers to adequate pain treatment for its citizens remain.

There are three major purposes of this study. The first objective is to understand the effects of pain management program on provider behaviors from a variety of disciplines, as evidenced by changes in the documentation of pain, and provider response to inadequate treatment. The second objective is to examine the impact of pain management program on patient-reported pain outcomes such as satisfaction and quality of life. The third objective is to explore psychological factors that may influence the impact of a pain management program.